

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2-3, 6-7 and 9, without prejudice or admission, and amend claims 1, 5 and 8 (also without prejudice or admission) as set forth in the following Claim Listing. The Claim Listing presented below replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Claim Listing:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A hERG channel-expressing cell population comprising cells capable of expressing a channel of which the hERG current as determined by patch clamping with a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system is 0.6 nA or more, wherein the proportion of said cells is 40% or more relative to the total number of hERG gene-transferred cells within said population, and
wherein the hERG gene has been transferred with a retrovirus vector.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The cell population according to claim 1, wherein the average value of the hERG current in the total cell population is 0.3 nA or more.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A cell capable of expressing a hERG channel of which the hERG current as determined by patch clamping with a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system is 1.0 nA or more,
wherein the hERG gene has been transferred with a retrovirus vector.

Claims 6-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A method of preparing the cell population according to claim 1, the method comprising expressing hERG channels via a ~~virus~~ retrovirus vector.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11: (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, the method further comprising the step of concentrating the virus vector by ultracentrifugation.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): A method of measuring hERG current inhibitory activity, the method comprising using the cell population of claim 1.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, the method further comprising using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): A method of measuring hERG current inhibitory activity, the method comprising using a cell population or a cell prepared by the method according to claim 8.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 14, the method further comprising using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): A method of screening a compound or a salt thereof for its hERG current altering effect, the method comprising using a cell population according to claim 1.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 16, the method further comprising using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): A method of screening a compound or a salt thereof for its hERG current altering effect, the method comprising using a cell population or a cell prepared by the method according to claim 8.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 18, the method further comprising using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): A method of measuring hERG current inhibitory activity, the method comprising using the cell population according to claim 5.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): A method of screening a compound or a salt thereof for its hERG current altering effect, the method comprising using the cell population according to claim 5.